

# Lowton West Primary School



## Attendance and Punctuality Policy

**Policy reviewed by Mrs J. Westhead/ Mrs R. Seddon**

**Date policy reviewed:** September 2024

**Ratified by Governing Body:** 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dr G. Merrett (Chair of Governors)

Mrs J. Westhead (Headteacher)

**Review Date:** September 2025

## Contact Details

**The name and contact details of the senior leader responsible for the strategic approach to attendance in our school is:**

Name Mrs. J. Westhead and Mrs R Seddon

Contact Details [enquiries@admin.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@admin.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk)

Telephone - 01942 724865

**The name and contact details of the school staff member pupils and parents should contact about attendance on a day-to-day basis is:**

Name Mrs. C Ward

Contact Details [enquiries@admin.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@admin.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk)

Telephone - 01942 724865

**The name and contact details of the school staff member pupils and parents should contact for more individual support with attendance:**

Name Mrs. A Higgins Pastoral and Safeguarding Manager/ Mrs. R Seddon Attendance and Welfare Manager

Contact Details [enquiries@admin.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@admin.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk)

Telephone - 01942 724865

**We are committed to ensuring that systems and processes are in place regarding promoting attendance and would encourage parents to make contact with school as soon as possible if they have any concerns about their child.**

# Lowton West Primary School

## Pupil Attendance Policy and Punctuality Policy

*Aiming High Together*

### School Vision

To inspire, achieve and succeed, we will aim high and build dreams and futures together.

### Mission Statement

Providing the highest quality education, care and support for the whole school community.

Our mission statement is based on RESPECT:

R = Recognising the needs of the individual child

E = Ensuring a unique and engaging curriculum

S = Supporting each other to learn and achieve

P = Passionate about providing the highest quality education

E = Encouraging creativity, self – expression and imagination

C = Creating confident, resilient, life – long learners

T = The voice of everybody is heard

All the above statements help us to understand how we can all make a positive contribution to the school and the wider community.

### **We will do this through our core values:**

- Respect
- Resilience
- Kindness
- Confidence

We also, at Lowton West Primary School, strive to develop and uphold British Values. The five British values that the Government has identified for schools to focus on are:

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- Developing personal and social responsibility
- Respect for British Institutions

There are more details on how our school demonstrates and develops these British Values in our British Values Policy and on our website.

# Lowton West Primary School

## Pupil Attendance and Punctuality Policy

### Introduction

The Governors and staff at our school expect all children on roll to attend every day, when the school is in session, as long as they are fit and healthy enough to do so. We do all we can to encourage the children to attend, and to put in place appropriate procedures. We believe that the most important factor in promoting good attendance is development of positive attitudes towards school. To this end, we strive to make our school a happy and rewarding experience for all children. We will reward those children whose attendance is very good. We will also make the best provision we can for those children who, for whatever reason, are prevented from coming to school.

'This is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances. The pupils with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 2 and key stage 4 have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment'. *Working Together to Improve School Attendance (Statutory guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities) August 2024*

At Lowton West we believe that successfully treating the root cause of absence and removing barriers to attendance, at home, in school or more broadly requires schools and local partners to work together in partnership with families. To achieve this, we follow the following principals set out in Working Together to Improve school attendance:

**Expect:** we aspire to high standards of attendance from all pupils and parents and build a culture where all can, and want to, be in school and ready to learn by prioritising attendance improvements across the school.

**Monitor:**

We rigorously use attendance data to identify patterns of poor attendance (at individual and cohort level) as soon as possible so all parties can work together to resolve them before they become entrenched.

**Listen and understand:**

When a pattern is spotted, we discuss this with pupils and parents to listen and understand barriers to attendance and agree how all partners can work together to resolve them.

**Facilitate support:**

We aim to remove barriers in school and help pupils and parents to access the support they need to overcome the barriers outside of school. This might include an early help or whole family plan where absence is a symptom of wider issues.

**Formalise support:**

Where absence persists and voluntary support is not working or not being engaged with, partners should work together to explain the consequences clearly and ensure support is also in place to enable families to respond. This may include formalising support through the local authority Attendance Team.

## **Enforce:**

Where all other avenues have been exhausted and support is not working or being engaged with, we will enforce attendance through statutory intervention: a penalty notice in line with the National Framework or prosecution to protect the pupil's right to an education.

## **The Law relating to Attendance**

The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education suitable to their age, aptitude, and any special educational need they may have. It is the legal responsibility of every parent to make sure their child receives that education either by attendance at school or by education otherwise than at school.

Regular and punctual attendance at school is essential to enable children to maximise their educational attainment, opportunities, and further development.

Relevant Legislation and Legal Background:

- Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 states that '*The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him/her to receive efficient full-time education either by regular attendance at school or otherwise*'.
- Section 444 (1) of the Education Act 1996 states that '*if a child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly at the school his parent is guilty of an offence*'.
- Section 576 Education Act 1996 stipulates that for the purposes of Education Law, parent includes:
  - All biological parents, whether they are married or not.
  - Any person who, although not a biological parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person - this could be an adoptive parent, a step-parent, guardian or other relative.
  - any person who, although not a biological parent and does not have parental responsibility, has care of a child or young person. This could be one parent, both parents and/or carers.

The Supreme Court has given its judgment on the meaning of what is meant by "attend regularly" at school for the purposes of section 444 of the Education Act 1996. The Supreme Court decided that "regularly" meant in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school" April 2017

## **School Procedures**

### **Recording attendance**

We will keep an attendance register and place all pupils onto this register. We will take our attendance register at the start of the first session of each school day and once during the second session. During both the first and second session we will record whether each pupil is:

- Present
- Attending an approved educational activity.
- Absent; or

- Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances.

The school will follow up any absences to:

- Ascertain the reason for absence.
- Ensure the proper safeguarding action is taken.
- Identify whether the absence is approved or not.
- Identify the correct code to use before entering it on to the school's electronic register, or management information system as a priority and returned to the school office in a timely manner. This is used to download data to the School Census.
- Consider early identification, assessment, intervention, and support processes that may need to be implemented.

The register is marked using the codes as advised by the Department for Education (DfE) 'Working together to improve School Attendance Statutory guidance' for maintained schools, academies, independent schools, and local authorities Aug 2024), for further information, please visit – [Working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\) \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

### **Communication between Parents/Carers and School**

Communication between parents/carers and the school is extremely important as this enables us to ensure that children are supported and feel settled in school. If your child is absent, you must inform the school immediately in line with the procedure as outlined above.

As a school we recognise that building respectful relationships with families and working in collaboration is essential to ensuring the best outcomes for children/young people. We require all parents to actively support the work of the school, including promoting attendance and engagement. We are committed to ensuring that systems and processes are in place with regards to promoting attendance and would encourage parents to make contact if they have concerns about their child.

In the event there is a persistent lack of engagement by parents, we may seek to secure engagement and school attendance through formal legal procedures.

### **Early Identification and Intervention: assess, plan, do, review.**

Every pupil has a right to a full-time education and Lowton West primary school sets high attendance expectations for all pupils. Lowton West will consider the individual needs of pupils and their families who have specific barriers to attendance.

For any child / young person who is absent from school, it is essential to fully understand the reasons for this so that targeted, evidence-based interventions and support can be put into place. All staff have a part to play in promoting attendance. We recognise the importance of ensuring that key members of staff from across the school, including class teachers, attendance, pastoral and SEND staff work in collaboration to consider and identify the holistic needs of the child/young person and to overcome barriers to attendance. In accordance with the principles of early intervention, a graduated approach of assess, plan, do and review will be followed, utilising a

range of school-based resources, evidence-based interventions and seeking advice and support from external services at an appropriate stage, where required.

Appropriate assessments will be important to help understand the underlying reasons that may be contributing to attendance difficulties. This may be an assessment that focuses on the individual child's needs and will include the views of the child/young person as well as parents/carers and identify strengths (what is working well) and needs (what is working less well).

Assessments undertaken may identify that a child/young person is experiencing underlying emotional based needs that are contributing to non-attendance. As a school we will access appropriate guidance developed by Wigan Local Authority in respect of this: Emotionally Based School Avoidance – best practice tool. This is a whole school framework with a graduated approach to support the early identification and intervention of children/young people who may struggle to cope in school/attend school.

Information from assessments will inform a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Targets) action plan with focussed targets developed in partnership with families, and other services as appropriate. For example, Start Well and Social Care may have a part to play in the delivery of support and intervention to promote engagement and attendance. SMART plans should be personalised to effectively meet a child / young person's needs and improve attendance and wellbeing outcomes.

Regular reviews of support and attendance plans are essential to monitor the impact of interventions and to adjust these accordingly. If, despite targeted support and intervention, attendance and wellbeing concerns persist, we may seek further advice and support from external services including mental health services, specialist teaching and education services.

## **Absence**

Children are expected to attend school regularly, unless there is good reason for absence. There are two types of absence:

- Authorised (where the school approves a pupil absence). This could include genuine illness, medical/dental appointments which unavoidably fall in school time, emergencies or other unavoidable causes agreed by the school.
- Unauthorised (where school will not approve the absence). This type of absence can lead to the school requesting an Education Penalty Notice or may result in a referral to the Local Authority's Attendance Team, who will consider legal proceedings.

## **Unauthorised Absence**

An absence may be coded as 'unauthorised' if:

- no reason for absence has been given.
- reason for absence is deemed insufficient by school.
- a request for a holiday/leave in term time has been unauthorised.
- a pupil arrives at school after registration has closed.

Parents/carers should be aware that Lowton West Primary School may contact the Local Authority if a pupil has 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks with a view to issuing an Education Penalty Notice or other legal action. The Education Penalty Notice is issued individually to each parent/carer who fails to ensure their child's regular attendance at school. The penalty is £80 per parent/carer per child if paid within 21 days rising to £160 if paid within 28 days. Non-payment of the Fixed Penalty Notice may result in prosecution in the Magistrates court.

[Consequences of not attending school \(wigan.gov.uk\)](http://wigan.gov.uk)

The school has a duty to safeguard all pupils. If your child is ill or cannot attend school for any other reason, parents/carers must contact the school, on the first day of absence by telephone, no later than 9:15am. School can also be contacted by email if preferred at: [enquiries@admin.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@admin.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk)

Reasons for absences should always be followed up in writing to school.

Where a child has not arrived in school at the close of the register, and parents have not contacted school as to the reason for this absence, then school will telephone the parent/carer to ascertain the reason for non-attendance. If we cannot get a reason or gain contact with you or the emergency contact numbers you have provided, this will be marked down as an unauthorised absence and is also a safeguarding concern. In cases where we have significant safeguarding concerns we will contact Wigan's Multi Agency Safeguarding Team and may request an official Welfare Check from the Police.

Please be aware that when a parent telephones the school with information that their child is unable to attend due to illness, or other circumstances, this may not be automatically authorised. Your child's current and previous school attendance will be taken into consideration and, as a result, the absence may be unauthorised. **The head teacher or a member of staff instructed by the head teacher can make the decision to authorise or unauthorise an absence. Please be aware that when a parent telephones the school with information that their child is unable to attend due to illness, or other circumstances, this may not be automatically authorised. Your child's current and previous school attendance will be taken into consideration and as a result the absence may be unauthorised.**

### **Persistent Absence (PA)**

A pupil is classified as a persistent absentee if they miss 10% or more of their own possible sessions.

In response to this and to try and prevent pupils from falling into this category, the school tracks and monitors any pupils who have an attendance figure of 96% and under. Pupils are closely monitored, and appropriate interventions are made. This includes, letters, phone calls, home visits and meetings.

After all appropriate interventions have been sort alongside parents/carers and attendance remains a concern, we may refer to Wigan Council's Attendance Team.

*Please refer to Attendance letters in Appendix 3 – 8 (N.B. these letters are guidance templates only and are subject to changes/ slight amendments as deemed appropriate).*

### **Medical Absence**



If your child is ill or cannot attend school for any other reason, parents/carers must contact the school, on the first day of absence by telephone, no later than 9:15am. School can also be contacted by email at: [enquiries@admin.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@admin.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk)

The school must be kept informed during longer periods of absence. School will contact parents during the first day if no satisfactory reason for absence has been received. Repeated absences may require us to request that you obtain medical evidence. This may be in the form of a named and dated stamped appointment card, prescription or medicine bottle which must be shown to a member of the school office.

It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose, or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. Please read this link for further information [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

If a medical absence is likely to be ongoing or long term, we will offer support in accordance with the school's and Local Authority's policies relating to children with health needs. As a school we need to plan how children can access education during periods of long-term absence and how and when the child will return to school. School will make reasonable adjustments for pupils where necessary and appropriate.

As a school we will adhere to the Local Authority policy [Education of pupils with medical needs \(wigan.gov.uk\)](http://www.wigan.gov.uk) This policy includes a graduated response, supporting inclusive practice across all settings to ensure children's continued links to their education provider when their health needs may impact their access to education.

We request that where possible, any dental, GP and other medical appointments are made outside of school time. If it is imperative that such an appointment must be arranged to take place in school time, we request that details of the appointment are provided to us as soon as possible.

## **Rewards and strategies used to promote good attendance**

At Lowton West, we aim to promote and reward good attendance in a positive way, through the following systems;

- Accurate, consistent registration and prompt follow up of all absence
- RED AMBER GREEN letters are sent home to parents at the end of each term. These letters are used to communicate with parents the importance of good attendance and the interventions that we use to support this.

**Red: 90% and under**

**Amber: 90.1 – 95.9%**

**Green: 96%+**

- All the children who have 100 per cent attendance in any one term will receive an excellence certificate for attendance. These children will also be entered into a raffle (there will be prizes for the first three 100% raffle winners drawn in the raffle). Pupil attendance figures will be published with the annual academic reports.
- All children who have 97% - 99% per term will also receive a certificate.
- All children who have 100 per cent attendance in any one year will receive an excellence certificate for attendance, presented at the end of the year Celebration Assembly.

- Attendance and Punctuality Early Help meeting with parent/carers. These meeting are an opportunity for open honest conversations with parent/carers. We work with parent/carers to devise action plans setting specific actions to support the family.

## Punctuality

Year group	Drop off time	Registration time	Late mark	Unauthorised late mark	Collection time
Reception	8.40am – 8.55am	8.40am – 8.55am	Children arriving after 8.55am will receive a 'late' mark (L)	Children arriving after 9.25am will receive an unauthorised 'late' mark (U)	3.10pm
Year 1 and 2	8.40am – 8.55am	8.40am – 8.55am	Children arriving after 8.55am will receive a 'late' mark (L)	Children arriving after 9.25am will receive an unauthorised 'late' mark (U)	3.10pm
Year 3, 4, 5 and Year 6	8.40am – 8.55am	8.45am-8.55am	Children arriving after 8.55am will receive a 'late' mark (L)	Children arriving after 9.25am will receive an unauthorised 'late' mark (U)	3.15pm

When a child arrives late, they miss out on essential instructions given at the beginning of the lesson. This can significantly reduce achievement, regardless of their academic ability.

Please see above table showing each year group's drop off, registration and collection times. The class teacher will take a register recording who is present and absent from school at **the above times for each year group**. Any pupil arriving at school after the end of their class's registration period, will need to inform the school office that they are late. There will not be staff available to supervise latecomers after the gates have closed. Parents need to inform school of the reason for lateness (via the school office). Any queries in relation to a pupil's lateness will be followed up by the school Office Staff or the school's Attendance Officer.

Pupils at Lowton West are expected to arrive on time every day. In order to support and encourage this, staff members will regularly monitor the school gates and late arrivals. All pupils' punctuality will be tracked by number of sessions late and monitored. Any pupil who is arriving late on a regular basis will be followed up with the appropriate intervention. This could include letters, phone calls, home visits and meetings in school.

## Requests for Leave of Absence and Holidays in Term Time

A Head Teacher may not grant any holiday during term time unless it is deemed that there are exceptional circumstances.

The Head Teacher will determine what constitutes an exceptional circumstance on an individual basis. If parents/carers request a holiday/leave during term time, they must complete the relevant form available from the school office. It should be noted that if any application is declined, then

school may apply to the Local Authority for an Education Penalty Notice to be issued to each parent/carer.

The following will not be deemed to be exceptional circumstances:

- Family holiday
- Availability of less expensive holiday
- Availability of holiday accommodation
- Parent/carer's working commitments
- Holiday pre-booked by another family member

A child's absence during term time seriously disrupts their continuity of learning. Not only do they miss the teaching on the days they are away but are less prepared for the lessons building on that teaching when they return to school. There is a consequent risk of under achievement, which we must seek to avoid. Please see Wigan Council Education Penalty Notice Code of Conduct Septemebr 2024 and Department for Education's national framework for penalty notices as set out in the ['Working together to improve school attendance'](#) guidance.

### **Religious observance**

We recognise that some pupils may need to participate in days of religious observance.

Where a day of religious observance:

- falls during school time and;
- has been exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which the pupil belongs

We ask that parents/carers notify Lowton West in writing in advance where absence is required due to a religious observance.

### **Attendance Targets**

The school sets attendance targets each year. These are agreed by the senior staff and Governors during the Autumn term. The targets are challenging yet realistic, and based on attendance figures achieved in previous years. The school considers carefully the DfE and Local Authority guidance when setting its own targets.

Our school Attendance Target for the forthcoming year:

2024/ 25 - 96%

### **Monitoring and review**

The Governing body has a strategic responsibility to monitor attendance and they will request a termly report from the Head teacher. The Governing Body also has the responsibility for this policy, and for seeing that it is carried out. The Governors will therefore examine closely the information provided to them, and seek to ensure that our attendance figures are as high as they should be.

The school will keep accurate attendance records on file for a minimum period of six years.

The rates of attendance will be reported on the school website, on the newsletter and in the termly Head teacher's report to the governing body.

This policy will be reviewed by the governing body every year, or earlier if considered necessary.

### **Equal Opportunities**

The governing body will pay particular attention to matters of equality and diversity; it will seek to ensure that the school abides by the statutory duties of the Equality Act 2010, and that no child is treated unfairly because of race or ethnic background, gender or disability.

## Leave/Holiday in Term Time request form

### Guidance Notes

- Please ensure this form is completed at least 1 month prior to requesting leave. Completing this form **does not** mean your request has been approved.
- The Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 2024 states that headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time.
- If your leave of absence request is not approved, then the absence will be marked as ‘unauthorised’ on the attendance register.
- For such ‘unauthorised’ absence, you may be liable to be issued with a penalty notice (fine). The fine is £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days, increasing to £160 per parent per child if paid between 21 and 28 days. If one or both parents fail to pay the penalty notice in full, then you may be prosecuted. The school also reserves the right to remove your child from the roll of the school. Where this happens, please be aware that it may not always be possible to re-admit your child to the school.

**Exceptional Circumstances:** In considering whether any ‘exceptional circumstances’ apply, the Headteacher will consider if the reasons are **rare, significant, unavoidable, and short**. The Headteacher will also take into consideration the factors listed below:

- can the event for which the absence requested can be reasonably taken during school holidays?
- levels of attendance and unauthorised absence over the last 12 months
- any leave of absence taken previously
- whether the leave is during the exam period, controlled exam periods or will result in not meeting assessment deadlines
- age and year group of the pupil

### CHILD'S DETAILS

<b>Surname</b>		<b>First Name</b>	
<b>Date of Birth</b>		<b>Year Group</b>	
<b>Address</b>			

### PARENT/GUARDIAN'S DETAILS

<b>Surname</b>		<b>First Name</b>	
<b>Relationship to child</b>			
<b>Address (if different to above)</b>			
<b>Telephone no.</b>		<b>Mobile no.</b>	
<b>Email</b>			

### DETAILS OF REQUEST FOR LEAVE

<b>Date of Departure</b>		<b>Date of Return</b>	
<b>No. of School Days Absence</b>		<b>Destination</b>	
<b>Local emergency contact name</b>		<b>Emergency contact number</b>	
<b>Address whilst on leave (if not a holiday)</b>			
<p><b>Please provide details and reasons for requesting this leave of absence and in particular any 'exceptional circumstances'. If necessary, please provide any documentary evidence in support of your request.</b></p>			
<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>			
<p><b>I certify that the information provided on this form is correct. I understand that the school reserves the right to issue a penalty notice or remove my child from the school register for unauthorised leave.</b></p>			
<b>Signature</b>		<b>Date</b>	

**– FOR COMPLETION BY THE SCHOOL –**

<b>Authorised</b>	<b>YES / NO</b>		
<b>Exceptional Circumstances</b>			
<b>Signature</b>		<b>Date</b>	
<b>Name</b>		<b>Position</b>	

## Attendance Codes – September 2024

<b>Attending the school</b>	
/\	Present at the school / = morning session \ = afternoon session
L	Late arrival before the register is closed
K	Attending education provision arranged by the local authority
V	Attending an educational visit or trip
P	Participating in a sporting activity
W	Attending work experience
B	Attending any other approved educational activity
D	Dual registered at another school
<b>Absent – Leave of absence</b>	
C1	Leave of absence for the purpose of participating in a regulated performance or undertaking regulated employment abroad.
M	Leave of absence for the purpose of attending a medical or dental appointment
J1	Leave of absence for the purpose of attending an interview for employment or for admission to another educational institution
S	Leave of absence for the purpose of studying for a public examination
X	Non-compulsory school age pupil not required to attend school
C2	Leave of absence for a compulsory school age pupil subject to a part-time timetable
C	Leave of absence for exceptional circumstance
<b>Absent – other authorised reasons</b>	
T	Parent travelling for occupational purposes
R	Religious observance
I	Illness (not medical or dental appointment)
E	Suspended or permanently excluded and no alternative provision made
<b>Absent – unable to attend school because of unavoidable causes</b>	
Q	Unable to attend the school because of a lack of access arrangements
Y1	Unable to attend due to transport normally provided not being available
Y2	Unable to attend due to widespread disruption to travel
Y3	Unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed
Y4	Unable to attend due to the whole school site being unexpectedly closed
Y5	Unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention
Y6	Unable to attend in accordance with public health guidance or law
Y7	Unable to attend because of any other unavoidable cause
<b>Absent – unauthorised absence</b>	
G	Holiday not granted by the school
N	Reason for absence not yet established
O	Absent in other or unknown circumstances
U	Arrived in school after registration closed
<b>Administrative Codes</b>	
Z	Prospective pupil not on admission register
#	Planned whole school closure

# LOWTON WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

MRS J. WESTHEAD B.Ed.(Hons), NPQH | HEADTEACHER  
DR. G. MERRETT MA, Med | CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



Slag Lane | Lowton | Warrington  
Cheshire | WA3 2ED

**t:** 01942 724865

**f:** 01942 721402

**e:** [enquiries@admin.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@admin.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk)

Date

## ATTENDANCE REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT

Dear Parent/Carer of \_\_\_\_\_,

During a routine attendance check of all children at Lowton West Primary School, it was noted that your child has been absent on a number of occasions.

Between \_\_\_\_\_ and your child was absent on \_\_\_\_\_ occasions.

I am aware that you have let school know the reasons for these absences however, regular attendance is extremely important as missing school can have an impact on learning, and as I am sure you are aware it is a legal requirement. Good attendance enables pupils to keep up with the work required.

Below is guidance as to how absence impacts upon attendance each term and over the year.

Attendance Percentage	Day missed over an average school term (approximately)	Days missed over a school year (approximately)
100%	0	0
95%	3 ½	9.5
90%	6 ½	19
85%	10	28.5

I will continue to monitor your child's attendance and I look forward to seeing an improvement. Where there is a medical issue, please ensure that the school office have relevant doctor's notes and appointment details so we can authorise the absences.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R. Seddon  
Attendance and Welfare Manager



[www.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk)



# LOWTON WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

MRS J. WESTHEAD B.Ed.(Hons), NPQH | HEADTEACHER  
DR. G. MERRETT MA, Med | CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



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Date

## ATTENDANCE MEETING

Dear Parent/Carer of \_\_\_\_\_,

Following a routine attendance check of all children at Lowton West Primary School, I am writing to inform you that your child's attendance has dropped below the school target of 96% and is currently (*insert percentage*) which is starting to cause us concern. Attendance below 90% is classed as Persistent Absence and may result in involvement from the Local Authority.

In order to ensure that we work together to improve your child's attendance, I would be grateful if you would attend a meeting in school at (time and date). At this meeting we will be able to look in detail at your child's attendance pattern, discuss any support needed and agree on a way forward to ensure that we see this figure improve.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R. Seddon  
Attendance and Welfare Manager



[www.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk)

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MRS J. WESTHEAD B.Ed.(Hons), NPQH | HEADTEACHER  
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Date

## PUNCTUALITY REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT

Dear Parent/Carer of \_\_\_\_\_,

During a weekly register check I have noted your child has arrived late on a number of occasions.

Please refer to the table below, clearly stating each year group's registration time and when your child will be marked as late in the register.

Year group	Drop off time	Registration time	Late mark	Unauthorised late mark	Collection time
Reception	8.40am – 8.55am	8.40am – 8.55am	Children arriving after 9.05am will receive a 'late' mark (L)	Children arriving after 9.25m will receive an unauthorised 'late' mark (U)	3.10pm
Year 1 and 2	8.40am – 8.55am	8.40am – 8.55am	Children arriving after 9.05am will receive a 'late' mark (L)	Children arriving after 9.25am will receive an unauthorised 'late' mark (U)	3.10pm
Year 3 4 5 and Year 6	8.40am – 8.55am	8.45am – 8.55am	Children arriving after 8.55 am will receive a 'late' mark (L)	Children arriving after 9.25am will receive an unauthorised 'late' mark (U)	3.15pm

Between (date) and (date) your child arrived late on ( ) occasions.

When a child arrives late, they miss out on essential instructions given at the beginning of the lesson, this can significantly reduce achievement, regardless of their academic ability.

The table below shows how punctuality impacts upon attendance over one full academic year.

Minutes Late per day	Days lost (over 1 full academic year)
5	3
10	6.5
15	10
20	13
30	19

We understand that a child may be late as a 'one off' but persistent lateness is not acceptable at Lowton West Primary School.

Your child's punctuality is beginning to cause us concern and we look forward to seeing this improve over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R. Seddon  
Attendance and Welfare Manager



[www.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk)

# LOWTON WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

MRS J. WESTHEAD B.Ed.(Hons), NPQH | HEADTEACHER  
DR. G. MERRETT MA, Med | CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



Slag Lane | Lowton | Warrington  
Cheshire | WA3 2ED

**t:** 01942 724865

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**e:** [enquiries@admin.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@admin.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk)

Date

## PUNCTUALITY MEETING

Dear Parent/Carer of \_\_\_\_\_,

During a weekly register check I have noted your child has arrived late on a number of occasions.

Please refer to the table below, clearly stating each year group's registration time and when your child will be marked as late in the register.

Year group	Drop off time	Registration time	Late mark	Unauthorised late mark	Collection time
Reception	8.40am – 8.55am	8.40am – 8.55am	Children arriving after 9.05am will receive a 'late' mark (L)	Children arriving after 9.25am will receive an unauthorised 'late' mark (U)	3.10pm
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Year 3 4 5 and Y6	8.40am – 8.55am	8.45am – 8.55am	Children arriving after 8.55 am will receive a 'late' mark (L)	Children arriving after 9.25am will receive an unauthorised 'late' mark (U)	3.15pm

Between (date) and (date) your child arrived late on ( ) occasions.

When a child arrives late, they miss out on essential instructions given at the beginning of the lesson. This can significantly reduce achievement, regardless of their academic ability.

We understand that a child may be late as a 'one off' but persistent lateness is not acceptable at Lowton West Primary School.

We are currently concerned about the level of your child's lateness and I would like to discuss this with you in more detail.

I would be grateful if you would attend a meeting in school on (date/ time).

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R. Seddon  
Attendance and Welfare Manger



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**Date**

## Invite to Early Help Meeting

Dear Parent/Carer of \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to invite you to an Early Help meeting.

The purpose of this meeting is to complete an Early Help Assessment, identify any support you may need and devise an Action Plan focussed around your child's needs.

If it is identified that you require a more targeted service, we will call a Team Around the Child meeting (TAC) and invite the appropriate agency to contribute towards meeting your child's needs.

I would be grateful if you would come to school on (insert time/ date).

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R. Seddon  
Attendance and Welfare Manager



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Date

Dear Parent/Carer,

## IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE LAW REGARDING PENALTY NOTICES FOR UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

A new National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absence, including unauthorised holiday absence, is being introduced following changes to the law. These new Government regulations will come into effect from 19 August 2024, and we wanted to bring this to your attention now, as it will affect when penalty notices are issued in Wigan.

In line with the [Working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/123456/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance-applies-from-19-august-2024.pdf) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk)), Wigan Council will prioritise the 'support first' approach expecting that support will have been offered to families in cases where it is appropriate, and parents/carers are encouraged to communicate with the school should any support be required to improve attendance.

Penalty Notices are requested by schools and academies and issued by the Local Authority to the parents/carers of statutory school age children, per parent, per child. For example: two children in a family absent from school for a leave of absence may result in each parent receiving a Penalty Notice for each child at the below rates.

### What are the changes?

1. There will be a new national threshold of 10 unauthorised sessions for any reason (equivalent to 5 school days) within a rolling 10 school week period for when a penalty notice must be considered.
2. The new rules mean you will no longer be able to take your child out of school for one week's holiday without a penalty notice being issued.
3. There will be an increase in the penalty fine from £60 to £80 if paid in 21 days. If the fine is not paid by the first 21 days, it will rise to £160 if paid within 28 days of being issued.
4. If a second penalty fine is issued to the same parent for the same child within a 3-year rolling period, the fine will automatically rise to £160 with no option to pay the lower rate of £80.
5. If a parent then commits a third offence in a 3-year rolling period, the local authority will need to consider other enforcement options available to them.

We would like to thank parents and carers for their support in making sure that children do not miss any learning time.

Cath Pealing

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'c. pealing', written in black ink on a light background.

Assistant Director - Education

## FAQs

If I have already booked a holiday for next year, could I receive a penalty fine at the new higher rate?

**Yes, if the absence has not been authorised by the Head Teacher of your child's school. Remember, only a Head Teacher can agree whether an absence can be authorised in exceptional circumstances.**

Who can be issued with a penalty notice?

- **Each parent can receive a fine for each child who has had unauthorised absence from school.**
- **In education law, anyone who lives with a child and who has day-to-day care of the child is also considered to be a parent whether they are the biological parent or not. For example, this will include step-parents and partners.**

Do the new rules only apply to holidays during term time?

- **No, it applies to all unauthorised absence from school including holidays. Unauthorised absence includes other absence that has not been agreed such as truancy, arriving late after the register has closed and failing to provide reasons for absence.**

How do I request for my child to have leave granted during term time?

- **You must submit an Absence Request form at least 20 days before the proposed absence. It will be for your child's Head Teacher to decide as to whether there are exceptional circumstances that will allow them to grant the time off. Do not assume that the absence will be granted until you have received confirmation from the school.**

Do the 10 sessions of unauthorised absence have to be taken all at the same time before a penalty fine is issued to the parent/carer ?

- **No, a penalty fine can be issued for any combination of absences over a 10-week rolling period. They can be consecutive or non-consecutive and can span over two terms.**

What happens if I am issued with a penalty fine and I don't pay it?

- **Unauthorised absence from school is an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996. A penalty fine is an opportunity for you to settle out of court. If you don't take this opportunity, you can be prosecuted for the offence of failing to ensure your child's regular attendance.**

What should I do if I am worried about my child's attendance?

- **In the first instance you should contact your child's school and ask for advice on how they can support you to improve the situation.**



[www.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.lowtonwest.wigan.sch.uk)



## Useful Links Section

This policy links to the following school policies:

- Safeguarding policy
- Behaviour policy

Other guidance/policies:

- [Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- [Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- [Working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\) \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)
- [Children missing education \(wigan.gov.uk\)](http://wigan.gov.uk)
- [Consequences of not attending school \(wigan.gov.uk\)](http://wigan.gov.uk)

